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Note verbale dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué from the Ministry of External Relations of Angola dated 23 May 2000 and requests that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

1. The Angolan Government learnt that the Togo Government expelled 56 Angolan citizens associated with the UNITA military organization, in compliance with pertinent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

2. This action taken by the Togolese Government clearly confirms the accounts given in the United Nations Sanctions Committee report on Angola, approved by Security Council resolution 1295 (2000) of 18 April 2000, that show the strong involvement of the Togolese Government and its multifaceted support of Mr. Savimbi's warfare in Angola.

3. The Angolan Government considers that this action, albeit a commendable gesture, is clearly insufficient for Togo's redemption considering the degree of its involvement in the Angolan conflict, and the considerable number of Angolan nationals associated with Mr. Savimbi who live in that country and who turned that country into a sanctuary for the Angolan subversive armed group.

4. In order to be credible vis-à-vis the international community, under the terms of resolution 1295 (2000), the expelling process should have been witnessed by the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committee, and it should reveal the full identity of those involved, and mention their new host country and the circumstances in which they were accepted by such host country.

5. As a matter of fact, individuals such as Joaquim Ernesto Mulato, Valentim Sapalao Pena, Joao Baptista Vindes, Sebastiao Dembo Junior, Jose Dias Kalufele, Piedade Poeira, Jacinto Tunga, Eloy Sachitali Sakaita, and several other dozens of UNITA officials and close relatives of Mr. Savimbi's or of his associates, were merely withdrawn from Lomé to other locations far from the site where Togo is planning to host the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit meeting.

6. Given the signals of lack of good faith that this step represents, and the fact that there is continued contact and support between Togo and UNITA, the Angolan Government considers that the reasons stated for opposing the holding of the thirty-sixth OAU Summit meeting in Togo are valid and warranted.

7. The Angolan Government reaffirms its position that the change of venue of the OAU Summit meeting and the assumption of the chairmanship of the Organization of the African Unity by another country should not be seen as a punishment for the country in question, but a precautionary measure to try and avoid a dangerous precedent that might damage the image and the good reputation of our organization before the United Nations and the world.

Ministry of External Relations, Luanda, 23 May 2000